

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12

ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9954

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 00845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MAPP, PORG, XF

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ON UNITED
NATIONS OBSERVERS IN LEBANON

ON MARCH 9, 1978 A UNITED NATIONS SPOKESMAN ISSUED
THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY-
GENERAL WALDHEIM:

- "THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS BEEN GRAVELY CONCERNED FOR MANY MONTHS PAST OVER THE UNSTABLE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND IN PARTICULAR OVER THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVERS ASSIGNED TO THAT AREA HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO CARRY OUT THEIR TASKS.

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- "THE OBSERVERS AND THE SUPPORTING FIELD SERVICE PERSONNEL HAVE DISPLAYED GREAT COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE IN CONTINUING TO MAN THEIR OBSERVATION POSTS IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE ALWAYS HAZARDOUS AND WHICH NOT INFREQUENTLY INVOLVE MASSIVE EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THEIR POSTS HAVE BEEN BROKEN INTO ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND THEIR

VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND BELONGINGS ARE FREQUENTLY SEIZED BY ONE OR OTHER DE FACTO GROUP IN THE AREA. ON MONDAY, 6 MARCH, ONE OF THE OBSERVERS, CAPTAIN PATRICK HAYES OF IRELAND, WAS WOUNDED IN THE COURSE OF AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN THE FACTIONS IN THE AREA.

- "THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WISHES TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN HIS CONCERN FOR THE SITUATION IN THIS REGION AND HIS ANXIETY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVERS WHO HAVE STEADFASTLY CONTINUED TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE OBSERVERS, HE ALSO WISHES TO EXPRESS HIS WARM APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENTS PROVIDING THE OBSERVERS, WITH WHICH CLOSE CONTACT IS BEING MAINTAINED, FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING IN THIS CRITICAL SITUATION. HE APPEALS TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO RESPECT THE STATUS AND FUNCTIONS OF THESE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVERS AND THE FIELD SERVICE OFFICERS, AND TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND TO FACILITATE THEIR TASK." YOUNG

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